

COUNCIL BRIEFS

May 6, 2016

Best High Schools in the Nation: Conard and Hall High Schools were recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best high schools in the nation in its annual rankings of more than 21,000 public high schools in 50 states. Schools were awarded gold, silver or bronze medals based on their performance on state assessments, graduation rates and how well they prepare students for college. Conard High School earned a gold medal and was ranked #306 in the nation, #6 in the state, and Hall was awarded a silver medal and was ranked #558 in the nation, #13 in the state.

In addition, *The Washington Post* ranked Conard High School #2 in Connecticut in its High School Challenge Index. The index score is the number of college-level tests given at a school in the previous calendar year divided by the number of graduates that year. [Click here to read more.](#) Congratulations to both schools!

Recycling & Waste Disposal App: Have you ever questioned yourself about what to do with your waste? Should you recycle it? Donate it? Or throw it away? The Department of Public Works now has an app to help answer those questions. The West Hartford Recycles app is available from the Apple and Android mobile app stores. In addition, the app is a planning tool for DPW because it tracks the items that users search for. The tracking report will help DPW direct these items to the proper waste streams.

Best Public Golf Course: Rockledge Golf Club was recently voted “Best Public Golf Course” in *Hartford Magazine’s* Best of Hartford 2016 readers’ poll. This is the eighth consecutive year Rockledge has received the award. Rockledge is known for its meticulous landscaping, championship layout and professional staff led by Richard Crowe, PGA Professional.

Town Clerk Advanced Certification: Town Clerk Essie Labrot and Deputy Clerk Madonna King recently received the Master Connecticut Town Clerk certification from the Connecticut

Town Clerk’s Association. To achieve this, Clerks must participate in an additional 100 class hours of related study beyond the State Certification requirements, as well as additional hours of professional and social contributions.

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill said, “There are so many outstanding things about West Hartford, and its Town Clerks Essie Labrot and Madonna King are among the best. I am so proud that they are joining an elite group who have achieved advanced certification.”

There are 22 Town Clerks and/or Deputies who have achieved this designation in Connecticut and a first for West Hartford to have both.

Whet Your Palette: The West Hartford Art League’s Whet Your Palette annual fundraising and tasting event will take place on Thursday, May 12, 6-9PM, at its two galleries. Tickets are \$25 for Art League members and \$30 for non-members. The event features food from several restaurants, vendors and artwork.

Spring Yard Waste Collection continues: The second round of Spring Yard Waste will occur during the week of May 9-13. Place 30-gallon biodegradable paper leaf bags at the curb by 6AM on your trash collection day.

U Drive. U Text. U Pay: The Police Department concluded the first part of the 2016 “U Drive. U Text. U Pay” campaign against distracted driving on April 30, 2016. Police officers issued 751 infractions and cited 53 violations including seat belt violations, speeding, driving under suspension, and registration violations. There was one DWI arrest made on April 8 and one infraction for possession of marijuana on April 27 as the result of stopping a motorist for a distracted driving.

The second part of the campaign will run August 3-16, 2016 and is made possible with a grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office.

Ronald F. Van Winkle, Town Manager